



Our Voice ♦ Our Community ♦ Our Future

## **METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 4:00 p.m.**

**Pima County Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room,  
101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Members present:** Arlene Benavidez, Monica Brinkerhoff, James Cook, Kendra Davey, Melanie Donaldson, Dr. David Doré, George Favela, Daniela Figueroa, Steve Freeman, , Javier Herrera, , Teri Laguna Jon Lansa, , Alexander Lewis, Paul Lovelis, Rafael Meza, Clarisa Nido, Patrick Robles, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Devon Scheitrum, Rex Scott, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dustin Williams, James Wiltbank.

**Members absent:** Buck Crouch, Richard Elias, Daniela Gallagher, Steve Holmes, Da'Mond Holt, Luis Manjarrez, Regina Romero.

**Non-members present:** Edward Nossem, Felicia Ramirez.

**1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

**3.0 Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

**4.0 Approval of July 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve: Dr. David Dore**

**Second: Jennifer Sprung**

**Motion carried.**



## 5.0 Appointments

Rex Scott presented an update on the appointments. MEC Youth Commissioner Joshua Ashton resigned to work part-time at the MEC office, creating a vacancy; the Youth Advisory Council will elect a replacement. The Healthcare Representative position will be filled in September.

## 6.0 Financial Report

Jim Cook reviewed the overall financial statement.

**Motion to approve: George Favela**

**Second: Jennifer Sprung**

**Motion carried.**

## 7.0 Financial & Business Plan

Arlene Benavidez, MEC Executive Director, provided updates related to City of Tucson funding. \$25,000 has been awarded and there have been other recommendations from the City to provide additional support, which are still being explored. There has also been support offered from other partners, including Pima Community College, the University of Arizona, the Tucson Chamber, AZ Tech, and school districts. Several offers are still being solidified and the hope is that in combination, they will help cover the immediate deficit. Paul is exploring the modification of the resolution and will continue to explore the idea with City and County officials. Arlene presented the FY 2019-20 Operating Budget, including total revenue and expenses. She shared fundraising goals for Key to Employment and Regional College Access Center. RCAC will be at risk if the MEC does not receive the Helios grant next year. Jim highlighted the fact that there is still a funding gap, and the need for the non-profit to become financially sustainable over time. This will require a “culture of philanthropy” and the collective resources and support of the entire MEC. The group discussed all the different ways members can support the organization, including donating time, making connections to potential donors, participating in one of the working groups that will be formed, and others. The Commissioners participated in an activity to identify the resources that each member might contribute, and the list will be compiled using the information.



8.0 Community Outreach

To build community awareness about the MEC, the Executive Board will begin working on an Op Ed highlighting how the MEC serves a unique need in the community. MEC Commissioners were asked to consider submitting letters to the editor and Op Eds, with a specific focus on how MEC programs have made an impact. The same request will be made of the Youth Advisory Council members, Regional College Access Center Networking Group, and other partners.

9.0 Call to the Public

There were no public comments.

10.0 Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn: George Favela**

**Second: Dr. Kasey Urquidez**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**